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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

(INCLUDING ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY)

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch.)

NORTH AMERICA

The Canadian Rockies: New and Old Trails. By A. P. Coleman. 383 pp. Maps, ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1911. 9 x 6.

Dr. Coleman's book is noticeable as marking in one man's experience the beginning of and the growing interest in the Selkirk-Rocky Mountain region as a summer playground. In 1884, the date of his first visit, the valley trails were known to few, white or Indian; the literature limited to the rather indefinite accounts of early explorers and hunters, the most important being Palliser's Journal. As late as 1895 the Dominion Topographical Survey professed ignorance of details outside a known strip along the Canadian Pacific Railway. Geographically, interest centers in Dr. Coleman's attempts to reach the mythical giants, Mt. Brown and Mt. Hooker, reported to be the highest peaks between Mexico and Alaska. It is given to few men to remove mountains, and the accomplishment of this was the more dramatic as difficult trails and uncertainty of exact location delayed success until the third attempt. Mt. Robson, the real giant of the Canadian Rockies, is the hero of the last two expeditions (1907-1908). Three attempts, one from the south in the earlier, two from the northeast in the latter years, failed to gain the summit, an honor falling to Mr. Kinney, a member of Dr. Coleman's party, the preceding summer, in 1909. The earlier expeditions (1884, 1885, 1888), deal with exploration in the Selkirk region, unconsciously foreshadowing the attraction of that region for the early mountain climbers, who, like Dr. Coleman, later abandoned it for the more accessible Rockies. Covering more in time and space than any book on the region yet published, easily followed by means of an excellent map, it is especially recommended to a reader having leisure for but one book on the subject.

C. S. THOMPSON.

SOUTH AMERICA

South America. Observations and Impressions. By James Bryce. xxiv and 611 pp. Maps, index. Macmillan Co., New York, 1912. \$2.50. 9 x 6.

This record of observations and impressions during a journey through western and southern South America from Panama to Argentina and Brazil via the Straits of Magellan, while not written by a geographer, bears testimony to the fact that its compiler would have attained as much eminence in our field as he has acquired in his own had he chosen geography as his life work. That he has more than a passing knowledge of this science is well known to those who have heard his addresses before scientific bodies at Washington. The book therefore does not lack scientific merit. Above all it reveals a keen discernment of true values.

The first part contains a description of the scenery and of social and economic phenomena in the seven republics of Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. This is followed by a survey of the relics of prehistoric civilization and of the native Indian population. A wide degree of familiarity with these subjects is displayed, together with fruitful application of trained thought on themes however new to the mind. The relation between South American, in contrast with North American and European conditions, is always in view, and the interest and educational value of the book are thereby enhanced. Mr. Bryce asks and gives his views on such questions